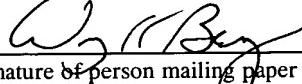


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Patent  
Attorney's Docket No.005950-843

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)
JAMES, et al.	) Examiner: Unassigned
	)
Application No.: Unassigned	)
(Divisional Application of 09/964,930)	)
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Filed: Herewith	)
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For: BENTONITE NODULES	)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.